

The Athenian Mercury.

Saturday, April 6, 1695

Quest. 1. **I**s it lawful to eat Fowls or Rabbits, &c. &c. as they usually are now a-days, viz. strangled in their blood?

Answe. See our former Answer, concerning the lawfulness of *Eating Blood*; where we hope we have advanc'd, and prov'd enough to satisfy any unprejudiced person in this matter.

Quest. 2. Gentlemen, I'm just upon marrying; but I've one thing lies much upon my mind, which I'd fain dispatch before I set about so great a work: I have two Penny-worth of Tin Farthings, and would fain know what I should do with them. No body will take 'em, and to send 'em to the Commissioners to be chang'd will scarce be worth the while, because I live at a distance from London: I am not willing to melt them, or send them to the Tinman in Exchange for New Pewter, because 'twould be a defacing of his Majesties Grace's Coyn, which I would not do for any good. To throw them away would be almost as bad; to carry them in my pocket would spoil my Silver: Nay, worse than all this, they often disappoint me, and make me think, with their deceitful jingling, that I have money in my pocket, when I am as innocent on't as the child unborn; and for giving 'em to the poor, 'twould be no Charity, and besides they woud not take 'em. Pray give me your sage advice how to behave my self in this great difficulty?

Answe. You'd take it amiss now shou'd we adjourn this weighty debate till we had a Committee of the whole Society, which since 'tis pressing, you must be content to take our judgment, tho' perhaps a little too hasty, according to what appears to us on our first thoughts about it. Sir, there are several tedious and expensive ways which others might put you upon to dispose of this inestimable Treasure. Some might think it most profitable to make a Venture of 'em, like Whittington's Carr, to some Barbarian-Heathen King or other, by which, as simple as you now sit, who knows but you may come to be Lord Mayor of London. Others may put it into your Head to borrow the Kings Carriages, some of the mony, or ammunition-Carts, which perhaps might be spar'd on so weighty an occasion, which woud with a great deal of security and decency convey your Treasure whither you please. But we must ingeniously confess our opinion is very different from both of these, and we are of the mind that 'tis clearly your best way to buy some choice Japan-Sorutore, or Cabinet, and lock up every one of 'em, like medals, in a different Drawer; and there keep 'em safe for your worship, and your worships Children, to recreate your selves within that ancient and noble game of *Chuck-farting*, which must needs be a wonderful satisfaction to such wise *Creatures* as they must needs be, if they do but take after their own Father.

Quest. 3. Having a near Relation much addicted to Swearing, &c. I desire, in one of your mercuries, you'd discourse something of the Greatness and Heinousness of this sin.

Answe. First consider, that this sin of common swearing, is a sin which hath very little or no temptation to commit it. The Two great Baits by which the Devil allures men to wickedness, are *Profit* and *Pleasure*. But now, this common *Rash swearing* is the most unprofitable, barren sin in the world; What Fruits brings it

forth; but only the abhorrence and detestation of all serious persons, and the tremendous Judgment of God!

Again, what pleasure is there in it? which of his Scales doth it please and gratifie? *Were I an Epicure* (saith Herbert) *I would base swearing*. Were men resolved to give themselves up to all manner of sensual Delights, yet there is so little that can be strained from this common sin, that certainly, unless they intended to do the Devil a pleasure, rather than themselves, they would never set their black mouths against Heaven, nor blaspheme the Great God who sits enthroned there.

How grievous Indecency is it, at every turn to Summon our *Master*, and call down Almighty God from Heaven, to attend our Pleasure, to vouch our idle Prattle, to second our giddy Passions, to concern his Truth, Justice, Power, in our trivial Affairs.

What Presumption is it, with unhallowed Breath, to vent and tos that Great and Glorious, Holy and Reverend, Fearful and terrible Name, of the Lord our God, the Great Creator, the mighty Sovereign, the Dreadful Judge of all the World? that Name which all Heaven with profoundest Submission doth adore; which the Angelical Powers, the Brightest and Purest Seraphims, without hiding their Faces and reverential Horror, cannot utter or hear; the very thought whereof, should strike an awe through our Hearts, the mention whereof should make any sober man to tremble?

The Jews permit not their Children to use the name of God till seven years old, that they may retain a greater Veneration for that Holy and Reverend name; and therefore the first Salutations of Children are plainly, *May you have a good day, I wish you a good Sabbath, &c.*

The *Effets* account every word they speak of as much force, as if they had bound it with an Oath; and they shun Oaths worse than Perjury; for they account him a Liar, who needs to call God to Witness.

Mr. Turner in his *History of all Religions*, p. 221. tells us, "The Persians are mightily addicted to ill Language and Cursing; but they never Blaspheme God; for if they should hear one Swear, or wish themselves at the Devil, they would cry out in astonishment, *is not that fellow a fool, to give himself to the Devil, and renounce Paradise?* All their Oaths are, *Ser-agiro-sha* (by the King's beloved Head) or *Erua Tigumbar*, (by the Spirit of the Prophet.) I remember, once at *Gaiet*, walking with some of the French Embasys dors Servants, we saw two *Turks* at Cuffs: In the end after 1000 curses on one side, the other replied no more than this, *I wish thy Soul may have no more repose in Paradise, than the Hat of a French man hath in this world;* alluding to their putting them off so often.

"The *Mahometans* never mention the Name of Christ, but with high Reverence and Respect.

"In naming the name of God, they must bow, and add, — *Most high, blessed, mighty, &c.*

"The great *Mogul* himself would speak most respectfully of our Blessed Saviour Christ.

"If the *Mahometans* find a bit of Paper in the way, they take it up, and put it in some place of a Wall, because the Name of God is, or may be written in it: So that the holes of the walls are always to be seen stuck full of them; for the same reason, they use no Paper when they go to ease themselves.

"A fight, it is no less strange, than ridiculous, to

" behold the Honour they do unto the Camel at his return unto Constantinople, which carried their *Alcoran* (amongst a *Caravan*, of many thousand Pilgrims, towards Mecha) crowding about him, as led through the streets, some pulling off his Hairs, and preserving them, as Relicks, some kissing, others with his Sweat besmeating their Eyes and Faces; and at last cutting him into little gobbets, and giving thereof to eat to their Friends and Families.

He further tells us, page 325. " That *Cyrus* preach'd many Sermons to the People of *Antioch* against Swearing; but they being weary of the Subject, ask'd, when he would leave off Preaching? To whom he answered, When you leave off Swearing: Would you have the Plaster taken away before the Wound be cured?

" The best way of observing an Oath is, if you neither use it frequently, nor rashly, nor in common matters, nor for the amplification of Speech, nor confirmation of a Relation, — but in things necessary and solemn, and when there is no other way to procure Credit.

" With the *Scythians* the Swearer's Punishment was loss of his Estate; with the *Perians* Bondage; with the *Grecians* cutting off the Ears; with the *Romans* throwing down a steep Rock.

" With the English, formerly payment of one shilling, but what now we know not, till the *New Act* against *Prophane Swearing* is publish'd. — *Thus far Mr. Turner.*

We shall only add, subdue as much as you can all inordinate Passion and Anger; for anger is usually the cause and provocation of *Scolds and Blasphemies*.

Anger is a fire in the Heart; and Swearing is the smoke of this fire that breaks forth at the mouth: and those who are violently hurried with this passion, do usually find nothing so ready at hand as an *Oath*; which if they cannot be revenged on him, whom they conceit to have done them the injury, they *Fling against Heaven it self*, and thereby seem to take an impious revenge upon the Almighty God.

Quest. 4. Will not the conclusion of a Peace on the best Terms we can now expect with France, be more to the disadvantage of our Nation then the continuance of the present Taxes?

Answ. Let's stay till a *Peace* is talkt of again before we resolve whether 'twould be proper to accept it, which when 'twill be, lies before a little better Judges then this either Querist or the Respondents; in the mean time, if *France* won't yet allow *fair Terms*, thanks be to God we are in a good way to *beat 'em into better*.

There is Newly Published,

Lachryma Sacerdotis. A Pindarick Poem Occasion'd by the Death of that most excellent Princess, our late Gracious Sovereign Lady, *Mary* the Second of Glorious memory. By *Henry Park*, Curate of *Wentworth* in *Yorkshire*.

The History of all Religions in the World, from the Creation down to this Present Time. In Two Parts. The first containing their *Theory*, and the other relating their practices; *With Various instances upon Every Head*. To which is added, a Table of *Heresies*: as also a *Geographical Map*, shewing in what Country Each Religion

is Practised. Written in a different Method from any thing yet published on this Subject. By *William Turner*, M. A. and Vicar of *Walberton* in *Sussex*. Both printed for *J. Dunton*, and are also sold by *E. Richardson*, near the *Poultry-Church*.

If any Minister's Widow, or other person have any Library or parcel of books to dispose of, if they will send a Catalogue of them, or notice where they are, to *John Dunton*, at the *Raven* in *Jewen-street*, they shall have Ready Money for them, to the full of what they are worth.

Those who have Occasion to Buy, Sell, or lend money on Jewts of any kind whatsoever; may be inform'd of the true value of any parcel not exceeding 20*l.* at the Expence only of 2*s.* and for any parcel of a higher Value at the Rates of 3*s.* for 30*l.* 4*s.* for 40*l.* and so upwards. Which shall be carefully and justly performed by *Jeremiah Marlow Goldsmith*, at the *Spread-Eagle*, in *Lombard-street*.

*Such Persons as are willing to Buy or Sell Blank or benefit Tickets in the *Million Lottery**, may have ready money for either, or be furnished with either, at the *Mercury Office*, at the *Trinity-House* in *Finch-Lane, London*, every day, from 1 a Clock to 4 in the Afternoon; Attendance being given those 3 hours only.

As also *Orphans* money in the *Chamber of London*.

These are to give Notice, that Dr. Clarke, who has been most famous for curing all diseases of the Eyes, and was Physician and the only sworn Oculist, to King *Charles the second*, and to the late King, before whom he restored in an instant the Lady *Bellasis* to perfect sight who was long blind; and brought to sight the 2 Sons of one Mr. *Peter Walter* a Schoolmaster, living near *Mountague-House* in great *Russel-street*, who were born blind with Cataracts, and has restored many blind of the *Gutta Serena*, or black Cataracts, a disease accounted incurable by others, and has an infallible secret for the King's Evil, and dissolving Cataracts, in the beginning without Couching, and Clearing the sight of Dimness, with all those seeming mists, Clouds and false appearances of things flying before the sight, signs of a growing blindnes if not in time prevented. And where as he hath had lately a call out of this Nation, by some eminent persons of Quality who were blind, who being restored to sight by his skill, he is now returned home, and may be advised withal as formerly (not only in the Opticks, but as a Legal Physician in all diseases incident to humane Bodies) at his house in *Hatton-Garden*; a Golden Eagle being over the Door.

There is in this City a very Ingenious Dutch Man called *Mr. Vandepolle*, who has found the only true secret for curing all sorts of crookednes and ill shape in any part of the Body and Legs, and that in a very short time, and without putting his Patient to the least pain, provided they be under 20 Years of Age. He further obliges himself to satisfy any Learned Physician, or other wurious Person, by clear and certain Reasons, that it is impossible perfectly to cure this malady in the Body, by Iron Staves, which are how used by them who pretend to be most skillful and expert therein. Any person who desires to employ him, may be further satisfied by one of the King's Physicians, to whom he was recommended by an Eminet Physician in *Holland*, who has attested the great cures he has done in that Country, and likewise by those many cures he has done in this City since he arrived. Of which he has ample Testimonies by him. He Liveth in *Vine-street* in *Piccadilly*, next door to the *Flower-Pot* over the *Thistle and Crown*, at *Mr. Casarell's* an Italian minister.